

Isaiah Lesson – 9: To Serve *and to Save*

This Week's Study: *Isaiah 41, Isa. 42:1-7, Isa. 44:26-45:6, Isa. 49:1-12.*

Memory Verse

Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV). *“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles”*

Servant Nation (Isaiah 41)

Isaiah 41:8 (ESV) *But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;*

Isaiah 44:1 (NKJV) *“Yet hear me now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen.*

Isaiah 50:10 (NKJV) *“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God.*

Exodus 19:6 (NKJV) *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’*

Exodus 7:16 (NKJV) *“Let My people go, that they may serve Me...”*

Matthew 23:11 (NKJV) *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

Matthew 20:27–28 (NKJV) *And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Romans 1:1 Paul calls himself a "servant of Jesus Christ". Employees today are not like servants in Paul's day. No wages, no hours, no time of your own.

- **Once, a man was taking a stagecoach** across the country. When he went to buy his ticket, he was informed that first class seats were \$100. Second class seats were ₺50. Third class seats were ₺25. The man looked in the stagecoach and all the seats looked the same to him, so he bought a third class seat. The man congratulated himself on saving money. Well, after a while, the stagecoach started up a mountain road. The stagecoach stopped and the stage driver stood up and shouted: "First class passengers, please remain seated. Second class passengers, get out and walk. Third class passengers, get out and push!" The church needs more third class passengers. Typically 20% of members do 80% of the work.
- The world measures success by how many serve you, God measures success by how many you serve.

Unnamed Individual Servant (Isa. 42:1-7) Spirit Filled

Isaiah 42:1–4 *“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. ⁴ He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”*

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV) *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

Isaiah 11:2 (NKJV) *The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

John 1:32–33 (NKJV) *And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’*

Colossians 2:9 *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;*

Acts 10:37–38 (NKJV) *that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

Matthew 12:14–21 *Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; And in His name Gentiles will trust.”*

Persian “Messiah” (Isa. 44:26-45:6)

Isaiah’s ministry lasted from about 745 B.C. to about 685 B.C. After mentioning a conqueror from the east and from the north (*Isa. 41:2, 3, 25*)

and implying that this was to be good news for Jerusalem (*Isa. 41:27*), Isaiah accurately predicted Cyrus *by name* and described his activities. He did come from northeast and conquer Babylon in 539 B.C.

Cyrus is mentioned 23 times by name and alluded to several times more.

In the first year of his reign he was prompted by God to decree that the Temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt and that such Jews as cared to might return to their land for this purpose. Moreover, he showed his interest in the project by sending back with them the sacred vessels which had been taken from the First Temple and a considerable sum of money with which to buy building materials.

Isaiah 44:26–28 (NKJV) *Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ To the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ And I will raise up her waste places; ²⁷ Who says to the deep, ‘Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers’; ²⁸ Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,” And to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.” ’*

Isaiah 45:1–6 (NKJV) *“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: ² ‘I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. ⁴ For Jacob My servant’s sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other;*

1 Kings 13:2 (NKJV) *Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men’s bones shall be burned on you.’ ”*

Hope in Advance

The fact that Isaiah accurately predicted Cyrus by name disturbs people who do not believe that prophets receive predictions from God. To cope, they accept the theory that another prophet, a “second Isaiah,” living in the time of Cyrus, wrote Isaiah 40-66.

Leviticus 26:40–42 (NKJV) *‘But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, ... ⁴² then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.*

A Feeling and Suffering Servant (Isa. 49:1-12)

Isaiah 49:1–12 (NKJV) *“Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. ² And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.” ³ “And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’ ⁴ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, And my work with my God.’ ” ⁵ “And now the Lord says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, And My God shall be My strength), ⁶ Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ” ⁷ Thus says the Lord, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the Lord who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You.” ⁸ Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; ⁹ That You may say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth,’ To those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ “They shall feed along the roads, And their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. ¹⁰ They shall neither hunger nor thirst, Neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, Even by the springs of water He will guide them. ¹¹ I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated. ¹² Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim.”*

Isaiah 52:13 *Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*